

VZCZCXRO4198  
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM  
DE RUEHJA #2846 2820959  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 090959Z OCT 07  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6618  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 1343  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0934  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 1863  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 7657  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0704  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 002846

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS (COPE), EAP/RSP,  
IO/UNP (WICKBERG), G (CURRIE)  
NSC FOR EPHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/09/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: INDONESIA/BURMA: IN REBUFF TO GOI, LEGISLATORS  
BLOCK DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

REF: A. JAKARTA 2829 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)B. RANGOON 986 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph Legend Novak, reasons 1.4 (b,d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: Escalating their response to the Burmese crackdown, Indonesian legislators have blocked the appointment of a new Indonesian envoy to Burma and put on hold agreement for Burma's new ambassador-designate to Indonesia. The move to block the two appointments may be temporary, but is symbolic of growing legislative, civil society and public anger toward the Burmese regime--and enhanced scrutiny of the GOI's measured response. END SUMMARY

[1](#)2. (C) DPR TAKES HARD-LINE: The Indonesian legislature (DPR) temporarily shot down a pair of diplomatic appointments involving Indonesia and Burma. In an October 9 conversation with Pol/C, Djoko Susilo, Chair of the DPR's Myanmar Caucus and a member of Commission I dealing with foreign and security affairs, confirmed press reports that the commission had met October 8 and decided that:

--The DPR will not support agreement for Burma's new ambassador-designate to Indonesia "at this time"; and,

--The DPR will not confirm Indonesia's new ambassador-designate to Burma "at this time."

(Note: Indonesian law requires that the DPR approve both Indonesian envoys sent abroad as well as nominees for foreign chiefs of mission accredited to Indonesia. Mission's understanding is that Indonesia is currently represented by a charge d'affairs in Rangoon while the Burmese ambassador in Jakarta is set to be replaced. End Note.)

[1](#)3. (C) Susilo said the DPR had decided not to cooperate with the GOI--which had supported the appointments--because it was "important that Indonesia show its real displeasure with the Myanmar regime's vicious actions." When asked whether he thought the Indonesian government would press the DPR to support the appointments again soon, he said he thought they would "wait some time" to ensure that they had enough support. Susilo added that the DPR had strongly urged the government to press ASEAN not/not to allow Burma to sign the

ASEAN Charter during the November summit in Singapore -- "We could not tolerate seeing a member of the Burmese regime sitting next to our President during such a ceremony." He conceded, however, that the DPR had no way to force the GOI's hand on this matter short of "public pressure."

14. (C) GOI MULLS OPTIONS: A dejected-sounding Gudadi Bambang Sasongko, Deputy Director for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DEPLU), told Pol/C that he had attended the October 8 hearing and had been surprised by how "forceful" the DPR was on the matter of Burma. Sasongko noted that DPR members had presented a list of "tough questions" about Indonesian policy toward Burma which the GOI was now working to answer. He did not know when or whether the GOI would try to press forward with the diplomatic appointments.

15. (C) REGIME'S ACTIONS REAP ANGER: The move to block the diplomatic appointments may be temporary--the Indonesian government may well try to press forward in the near-term using its DPR allies. The October 8 rebuff, however, is symbolic of growing legislative, civil society and public anger toward the Burmese regime. In light of this political environment, it will be difficult for the Palace or DEPLU to act toward Burma in any context--bilateral, ASEAN, UN--without considering the domestic reaction. Thus, any effort to resuscitate "constructive engagement"--something which DEPLU has hinted at vaguely--will not wear well.  
HEFFERN